

**TRURO BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2013  
TRURO TOWN HALL  
24 TOWN HALL RD  
5:00 PM**

**Power Point Presentation by Covanta SEMASS (Southern Massachusetts Resource Recovery Facility)  
RE: Contracting with the Town of Truro for the Transfer Station garbage waste and recycling removal**

**Present: BOS Chairman-Jay Coburn, BOS Vice Chair-Breon Dunigan, BOS member Paul Wisotzky, BOS member Robert Weinstein, BOH Chair-Dianne Eib, BOH Vice Chair-Tracey Rose, BOH member Mark Peters, Health and Conservation Agent Pat Pajaron, Paul Morris, Rex Peterson, Charleen Greenhalgh, Tom Cipolla, business manager of Covanta (SEMASS), Richard Fishman – Recycling Committee, Robert Holt – Recycling Committee**

Tom Cipolla presented a ten minute video for everyone to watch. It discussed the process of how SEMASS works. After the presentation, Tom answered various questions from the audience.

Mark Peters: What proportion of the trash comes in via rail?

Tom Cipolla: We take in approximately 1.1 million tons annually, and about ten percent of that trash comes in by rail (a little over 100 thousand tons).

Mark Peters: Has any thought been given to expanding the rail?

Tom Cipolla: We are in the process of wrapping up a long term contract with Yarmouth, and we hope to be able to expand use of that rail to other communities on the Cape.

Mark Peters: It would be something of an advantage if Truro could avail itself to a rail drop off in Yarmouth, as opposed to driving all the way to SEMASS. The only question would be tipping fees, as far as the additional transfer of product.

Tom Cipolla: Utilizing the rail out of Yarmouth, for Truro, is a possibility. We haven't finalized our arrangement with Yarmouth yet, so once we do that we could still use the rail, regardless of the contract we are discussing.

Mark Peters: Given the fact that the rail goes all the way to Harwich, is there any thought of establishing anything in Harwich?

Charleen: The rail stops in Yarmouth.

Tom Cipolla: You would have to drive it to Yarmouth.

Richard Fishman: If toxic items don't get taken out, for example, mercury, what happens when it goes up the pipe? Where is the electricity, which is being generated, used? What is the efficiency level of your plant, and how do you create the fire to start with?

Tom Cipolla: We do our best to keep hazardous materials out of the facility. We have a robust mercury recovery program to pull the mercury out of the waste stream. We have radiation monitors at the scale when the trucks come into the facility. If a load gets identified as one with problematic materials on it, it gets pulled out. We also have individuals on the tipping floor that are looking at/examining the loads. We generate 80 megawatts, which equates to 600,000 megawatts annually (enough to power 75,000 homes). We are not in the power business. We have a contract with Nstar, and it goes onto the grid.

## Page 2

When the boilers are down, during periods of scheduled maintenance, we generally use natural gas to fire the boilers. Once they are started, we feed it with the municipal solid waste.

Robert Holt: Do you generate 24 hours a day?

Tom Cipolla: Yes, seven days a week.

Robert Holt: I'm interested in the issue of ash. Is there any fly ash that is collected?

Tom Cipolla: Yes, there is fly ash and bottom ash. The ash correlates to about ten percent of the waste that comes in. We dispose of this in local area landfills.

Robert Holt: Where are the landfills?

Tom Cipolla: Primarily Carver and Bourne.

Robert Holt: Is there sufficient capacity?

Tom Cipolla: Absolutely. We also have other landfill disposal sites available to us, should the need arise.

Richard Fishman: Can you tell us a little about what the company Covanta is? Is it publicly traded? Who runs it? What are their principals?

Tom Cipolla: The SEMASS facility is owned and operated by Covanta Energy Corporation, based out of Morristown, New Jersey. It is a publicly traded company with sales approaching two billion annually. Covanta is in the "energy from waste" business. Covanta owns and operates 4500 waste facilities in MA alone, and they also own facilities abroad. They recently acquired a facility in New Jersey, and they recently signed a contract with New York City to take almost a million tons a year from NYC to a couple of Covanta facilities.

Robert Holt: Would you tell us how the new facilities being set up will process food waste?

Tom Cipolla: I apologize; I have not been terribly involved with the facility in Connecticut yet. It's basically going to be handling three types of organic materials. Bio-solids, food waste and yard waste. It will be processed, and the end product will be used in farms. I don't have the details, but I can certainly get them for you.

Robert Holt: It's not incinerated?

Tom Cipolla: No, it's not. That will be disallowed in a few years.

Tom let the audience know that Covanta will be utilizing the Yarmouth Transfer Station for recycling. They have been using the facility for recycling for the Town of Yarmouth for a number of years, and that facility will be available, even more so, for Cape Cod communities to bring their recyclables. Covanta has partnerships with recycling facilities. If a Cape Cod town is driving their recyclables off Cape, they won't have to do that anymore. He then took the audience through the proposal for Truro.

Richard Fishman: I want to be clear on something. Covanta will never charge the town for any recycling that would be picked up?

Tom Cipolla: That's correct.

Richard Fishman: Covanta would pick it up here, or in Yarmouth?

Tom Cipolla: We would ask the town to bring it to the Yarmouth Transfer Station. There is an opportunity for us to pick it up from your location, but that would change the amount of the rebates. If the town chooses to do that, we could talk about it.

Richard Fishman: I also have a comment. I assume what you're setting up in Connecticut is some sort of composting facility?

**Page 3**

Tom Cipolla: Yes.

Richard Fishman: To me, it makes more sense for Covanta to run a workshop how to do it here. Rather than schlepping a bunch of wet stuff 150 miles. That's my opinion.

Jay Coburn: This is a question for Paul Morris. What is our current rate with SEMASS, and how much (approximately) are we shipping per year?

Paul Morris: Right now it's 37 and change for the tipping fee. We were around 1500 tons last year. We've been as high as 2000 tons.

Paul Wisotzky: Would we be bringing glass and plastic to Yarmouth as well?

Tom Cipolla: That's correct, and there would be no rebate on those items.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

---

Jay Coburn, Chairman

---

Breon Dunigan, Vice-Chairman

---

Janet W. Worthington, Clerk

---

Robert Weinstein

---

Paul Wisotzky

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Truro